

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

Newsletter

BOARD MEMBERS

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John Cormier Tuscaloosa, AL Member	PT
Vince Molyneux Mobile, AL Member	PTA
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"Leadership and Lessons Learned"

Being elected Board Chair is one of the highest honors I have received; and for this I am truly grateful. I deeply appreciated your trust and look forward to working hard to serve you this year!

It's hard to believe that almost twenty-five years ago I started out in the profession of Physical Therapy. It all began when my grandmother was diagnosed with a stroke. She started receiving PT in the home. I was fortunate to observe her rehab, and that indeed was the turning point for me. As a young girl, I soon learned the meaning of "caring for others" and how important PT was in my grandmother's recovery. The experience helped me understand just how important rehabilitation is to the practice of medicine.

After graduating from UAB as a PTA and from Georgia State as a PT, I soon learned how the profession gave me the opportunity to make a connection with others and to give and receive from my patients. This personal connection has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my professional life.

The fact that our profession is a "giving one" naturally brings "giving people" into its service. Many "giving people" come to mind; but I would like to share with you an experience that remains meaningful to me: One of my new graduates was evaluating an outpatient with a total knee replacement and found a blood clot. She contacted the MD who sent the patient to the ER for further tests. The patient was admitted into the hospital and put on bed rest for several days with no family members by his side. So every afternoon, until the family could arrive from out of town, the new graduate would spend her evening with the patient, providing comfort and easing the patient's mind of worry, which obviously made a difference in how the patient felt and in his recovery.

This example is representative of thousands of others that happen daily in our state, which makes me so proud to be a part of our caring profession. I have enjoyed serving you the past nine years and look forward to continued positive change for our profession and the association.

It's this spirit of "giving" that makes our profession so unique.

**Yours, in Physical Therapy,
Sonja Enfinger, PT**

ONLINE RENEWAL

WHO: ALL ALABAMA PT & PTA LICENSEES

WHAT: 2008 LICENSE RENEWAL

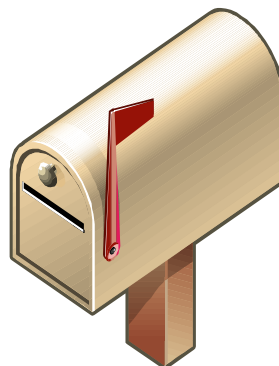
WHEN: August 1 – September 30, 2008

WHERE: www.pt.alabama.gov

- HOW:**
1. Click renewal box at bottom of home page
 2. Know your license # & last 4 digits of SS#
 3. Have your CEU information
 4. Use your credit card
 5. Print your receipt
 6. If audited, mail in copy of CE certificate

Your license expires at midnight September 30.
You **MUST NOT** work with an expired license!

Do you have a new address?
If so, we need to know it.



RENEWAL & CONTINUING EDUCATION: **THE TWO GO TOGETHER**

Renewal of License. Highlights from 700-X-2-.09 of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Administrative Code

(1) Annual Renewal Required. Each license expires on October 1 (12:01 A.M.) of the year following its issuance.
(2) Renewal Fee Required. A renewal fee of not to exceed \$100.00 shall be required for annual renewal of license. The renewal fees shall be set from time to time by resolution of the Board. (Currently the fees are \$70 for PTs and \$50 for PTAs.)

(3) Continuing Education Required. Successful completion of continuing education shall be a requirement for the renewal of licenses. Licensees must have documentation of successful completion of continuing education units for license renewals.

(a) General Guidelines

1. Continuing education courses seeking Board approval are courses which:

- (i) Maintain, improve or expand skills or knowledge
- (ii) Contribute to the professional competency of the licensee by means of an organized program
- (iii) Pertain to common subjects related to the practice of physical therapy
- (iv) Are conducted by experts in the subject matter – individuals with special education, training, and experience, and are accompanied by a paper, manual or outline
- (v) Have stated program goals / objectives

(b) Requirements

- 1. Each PT and PTA licensed to practice by this Board shall complete for each compliance period, a minimum of ten (10) contact hours for PTs and six (6) hours for PTAs of continuing education approved by the Board. (All pre-approved on-site and home study courses are listed on our website under CONTINUING EDUCATION.) October 1 through September 30 of the next year shall constitute a compliance period.
- 5. Hours earned by a PT in excess of ten (10) hours during a compliance period, and hours earned by a PTA in excess of six (6) hours during a compliance period, may be carried forward into the next compliance period; but, no more than ten (10) hours may be carried forward by a PT and no more than six (6) carried forward by a PTA.

(f) Failure to Meet Requirement

- 1. No license will be renewed in the absence of satisfactory evidence that the required hours have been earned.

For a complete review of this Section, you can go to our website and access the Administrative Code under RULES & REGS, then click on Administrative Code.

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

COMPLETES SUNSET REVIEW PROCESS (ALMOST)

John Cormier, PT

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy was created by the Alabama Legislature, and every four years the Board's performance is evaluated by the Sunset Committee of the Legislature. The last evaluation period ran from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2007. At the end of each review period, an audit is performed by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts. A report is then generated and provided to the Sunset Committee. The Sunset Committee subsequently holds a hearing and brings the Board before them to be held accountable for their performance and actions. The hearing for this most recent review period was held in Montgomery on June 19, 2008.

If you think back on the events that occurred during this last review period, you will recall that it has been very busy and that the Board was involved in some controversial issues. One of the things the Examiners of Public Accounts does to gather information for their report is to survey Board members, a sample of licensees, and individuals who have been involved in complaints handled by the Board. In the Examiners' report for the 2004 Sunset Review, a significant finding in the report was that licensees stated that the lack of Direct Access was a significant problem in Alabama. In response to this opportunity, the Board, in collaboration with the Alabama Chapter of the PT Association, introduced a Direct Access bill during the 2005 legislative session which was sponsored by Rep. Jim McClendon and Senator Jeff Enfinger. This bill did not pass, mainly due to opposition by the Medical Association.

Then in 2006, the Board introduced a rule change that would prohibit licensees from participating in physician self-referral (POPTS) arrangements. This quickly became a very controversial issue and was brought before the Joint Legislative Council. The rule ended up being struck down in November of 2006 with the Medical Association and several physician groups in the state lobbying heavily against it. During the hearing, there were several legislators on that committee who appeared antagonistic to the Board. In retaliation, during the 2007 legislative session the Medical Association introduced legislation that passed, modifying the PT practice act, making it impossible for the Board to address licensee participation in physician self referral arrangements in the future through a rule change.

Significant items in the most recent Examiners' report included POPTS and once again a lack of direct access. The Examiners reported on the Board's actions related to these two issues over the last few years, and their presentation was very unbiased and accurate. They did not provide commentary about the Board's actions, only a report of them. However, the Examiners' report of significant findings is typically the topic of questions and discussion by the legislators during the Sunset Hearing, which caused the Board members to be a little apprehensive of what the legislators' tone might be during the hearing. This concern was heightened because several of the most openly antagonistic legislators from the Legislative Council hearing on the POPTS rule in 2006 were also currently serving on the Sunset Committee. Thankfully, the hearing went very well. None of the legislators who had been antagonistic to the Board in 2006 were even at the Sunset Hearing, and the legislators who were there were very encouraging. They took a real interest in understanding the licensees' and the Board's concern with POPTS and the lack of Direct Access. More than one legislator voiced real concern about the potential dangers of both these issues and encouraged the Board to continue to address them. One legislator, who was a physician, even went so far as to say that he thought it was an embarrassment that Alabama had not given its residents Direct Access to Physical Therapy yet.

The Sunset Committee is charged with making a recommendation to the full legislature about any possible changes to be made to the PT Board. Usually the recommendation is simply to continue the Board for another 4 years, as long as nothing drastic comes up. This will be accomplished in another meeting of the Board Members and the Sunset Committee at the beginning of the 2009 legislative session. Your licensure Board will continue to monitor the final outcome of the Sunset Committee review process, but we anticipate a favorable report from the Committee to the legislature.

MODEL PRACTICE ACT WORKSHOP: **An Opportunity for Change**

Two representatives from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy came to Montgomery on a Saturday in June to lead a workshop for the Board and some members of the AL PT Association to begin a process to determine necessary and feasible changes to the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act.

The Model Practice Act and APTA Vision 2020 provided the basis for examining our practice act. The agenda included the following topics: Why Make Changes? and Whose Role Is It?; How to Use the Model Practice Act; Determining What to Change; Key Issues for Consideration: General Legislative Intent, Definitions, Licensure, Title and Term Protection, Patient Care Management, and Scope of Practice; and Language Drafting.

This obviously cannot all be accomplished in a one-day session! The Board has determined to set aside time during each meeting in the coming months to identify the most important changes that need to be made and outline the most effective way to get those changes accomplished.

If the licensees of this state have any questions or concerns regarding the law or rules and regulations of the profession, they should contact the Board office.

2007 BOARD APPOINTMENTS MADE

On April 2, 2008, the Governor appointed Richard Vincent Molyneux from Mobile AL to the physical therapist assistant position on the Board. John Cormier from Tuscaloosa AL was re-appointed for a second term as a physical therapist member on April 18, 2008.

Vince Molyneux is the Assistant Director/ Clinical Coordinator of the Spring Hill Medical Center Outpatient Rehabilitation Center in Mobile. He has been in practice for approximately 8 ½ years in the home-health, acute, outpatient and senior residence settings. He enjoys working with the public and facilitating their rehabilitation to provide a better quality of life. He is dedicated, hard-working and a breath of fresh air on the Board.

The Board welcomes John Cormier back to the Board with open arms. John has been a licensed physical therapist in Alabama since 1992 and active in the professional association throughout that time. He has previously served a five-year appointment to the Board of Physical Therapy, serving as Chair for two years. During his year away from the Board, John has been heavily involved with the Alabama PT Association's Governmental Affairs Committee. He will lend strong leadership in assisting the Board as a collective body to fulfill its mission of public protection through the regulation of the practice of physical therapy in Alabama.

